



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Killing of Human Rights Activist Natalya Estemirova

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Kyle Scott
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 16, 2009

Madam Chairwoman,

The United States is deeply saddened by reports of the abduction and murder of respected human rights activist Natalya Estemirova. We call upon the Russian government to bring those responsible to justice.

A member of the NGO Memorial HRC in the North Caucasus, Natalya Estemirova was uncompromising in her willingness to reveal the truth regardless of where that might lead. She was devoted to shining a light on human rights abuses, particularly in Chechnya, and received a number of international awards for her brave work as a human rights defender, including the 2007 Anna Politkovskaya prize by the Nobel Women's Initiative and awards from the Swedish and European parliaments. We extend our deepest sympathies to her family.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.